(b) whether Government have conducetd any study to find out the reasons for which Coal India has been incurring losses; if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what other measures are being taken to make the undertaking earn profit ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDA) : (a) The price of coal has been revised w.e.f. 28-12-1991 to recoup the increase in cost of production.

(b) Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices has recently started a comprehensive study of Coal Industry with a view to recommend suitable prices and other policy measures for the industry.

(c) Steps being taken to reduce the costs in Coal India Limited include :—

(i) Improved manpower planning including redeployment of surplus workers and restricting the intake of new employees against vacancies caused by natural wastage.

(ii) Control on increase in manpower through voluntary retirement schemes.

(iii) The concept of 'all men—all jobs' is being tried on an experimental basis.

(iv) Improvement in the availability and utilisation of equipment by providing adequate workshop support, improved management spares and timely rehabilitation of equipments.

(v) Increase in production and productivity with special emphasis on underground mines.

(vi) A number of systems improvements and managerial measures have been adopted to improve efficiency of operations.

Closure of coal mines suffering losses

450. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item published in the Nav Bharat Times (Patna edition) dated 24th January, 1992 captioned as "Ghate Wali 251 khadane band karne per vichar"; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) At present there is no proposal for large scale closure of loss making mines.

Adverse effect of increase in price of Coal

451. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that prices of coal have been increased in the month of December, 1991;

(b) whether it is also a fact that some State Electricity Boards have shut down their power stations due to the increased prices of coal ;

(c) whether Government are aware that this would have adverse effects on all the commodities; and

(d) if so, what steps have been taken, so far, in this regard ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Ministry of Coal is not aware if any such incident.

(c) Increase in coal prices does not affect prices of several commodities directly and indirectly. The estimated impact on the major coal consuming sectors because of the price increase w.e.f. 28-12-91 is as follows :

	* CIL	** SCCL
Power (paise/KWH)	5	6·48
Cement (Rs./tonne)	18·25	22·75
Steel (Rs./tonne)	250·50	..

Coal prices have been revised in December, 1991 after a lapse of nearly three years. Coal companies are being continuously advised to take all possible steps to contain their cost of production.

(d) Some of the steps taken by them to reduce the cost of production of coal are as follows :—

(i) Improved manpower planning including redeployment of surplus workers and restricting the intake of new employees agginst vacancies caused by natural wastage.

(ii) Control on increase in manpower through voluntary retirement scheme.

(iii) The concept of 'all men—all jobs' is being tried on an experimental basis.

(iv) Improvement in the availability and utilisation of equipment by providing adequate workshop support, improved management spares and timely rehabilitation of equipments.

(v) Increase in producton and productivity with special emphasis on underground mines.

(vi) A number of systems improvements and managerial measures have been adopted to improve effiiciency of operations.

*CIL—Coal India Limited.

**SCCL—Singareni Collieries Company Limited.

Closure of Gramodaya Sangha in Bhadrawati

452. DR. BAPU KALDATE :

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the closure of the Gramodaya Sanghs producing ceremic art, building material in Bhadrawati of Maharashtra's Chandrapur District due to eratic and inferior quality of coal supply ; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by Government to revive the project for the economic betterment of the area ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) and (b) According to information furnished by Western Coalfields Limited (WCL) the Gramodaya Sangha producing ceramic art and building material was not closed for want of coal. It is reported that the unit had expressed some difficulty with regard to quality of coal required by them. The Western Coalfields Limited have intimated that on the basis of sponsorship, the unit was allowed to lift 'A' grade steam coal from Naglone and 'B' grade steam coal from Hindustan Lalpeth Collieries.

But they have hardly taken eve this 'A' grade coal from Naglonn mines which is reported to be thi best quality coal in WCL. The coal companies will try to meet the coal requirement of Unit if it is re-started.